



PATENT  
Attorney Docket No.: 054468-5003 US

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: )  
Shila JALALI *et al.* )  
Application No.: 09/724,836 )  
Filed: November 28, 2000 )  
For: MICROTITER PLATE FORMAT DEVICE AND )  
METHODS FOR SEPARATING DIFFERENTLY )  
CHARGED MOLECULES USING AN )  
ELECTRIC FIELD )

Group Art Unit: 1743  
Examiner: John S. STARSIAK

6/A  
B1  
1-7-03

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

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DEC 26 2002  
TC 1700

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Prior to examination, kindly enter the following amendments:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please consider the following amended claims:

1. (Amended) A system for separating sample molecules having different charges in a plurality of samples, comprising:  
a sample plate comprising a plurality of sample wells arrayed in the sample plate;  
at least one capture matrix, wherein the capture matrix is disposed in each of the sample wells proximate an end of the sample wells, and wherein the capture matrix comprises at least two layers of material, wherein the layers comprise at least one diffusion inhibiting layer consisting of a diffusion-inhibiting material and at least one binding layer comprising a material having the ability to covalently or non-covalently bind at least one molecule of interest;